

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----042322 151849Z /44

O R 151830Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0671
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 13318

EXDIS

USIAEA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV IAEA ENRG PORG SF GW US UK
SUBJECT: GENSCHER-BOTHA TALKS: NPT, SOUTH AFRICA'S
INTERNAL SITUATION AND REACTIONS TO US AND UK
PRESSURES

BEGIN SUMMARY. BOTHA TOLD GENSCHER IN THEIR AUGUST 13
MEETING THAT SOUTH AFRICA'S NON-ADHERENCE TO THE NPT WAS
NOT A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE BUT THE RESULT OF "TECHNICAL
DIFFICULTIES." HE EXPRESSED ANNOYANCE AT WESTERN
PRESSURES ON SOUTH AFRICA FOR REFORM. DISCUSSION OF
RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA IS REPORTED BY SEPTELS. END
SUMMARY.

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1. IN BRIEFING US AND UK EMBOFFS ON THE AUGUST
13 GENSCHER-BOTHA MEETING, MUELLER OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE
STATED THAT GENSCHER EMPHASIZED THE NECESSITY FOR SOUTH
AFRICA TO ADHERE TO THE NPT, AS THIS WOULD CONVINCE
WORLD OPINION THAT SOUTH AFRICA DOES NOT INTEND TO
FABRICATE A NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICE. BOTHA STATED
THAT SOUTH AFRICA'S NON-ADHERENCE WAS NOT A MATTER OF

PRINCIPLE, BUT RESULTED FROM TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES WHICH INCLUDE A US REFUSAL TO DELIVER "THINGS THEY (SA) NEED." THESE APPARENTLY INCLUDE EQUIPMENT OR COMPONENTS NECESSARY FOR RAISING THE ENRICHMENT LEVEL OF URANIUM FROM 2.5 PERCENT TO 15 PERCENT.

2. BOTHA BECAME FURIOUS IN DISCUSSING SOUTH AFRICA'S REPLACEMENT BY EGYPT ON THE BOARD OF THE IAEA. BOTHA CALLED THIS "THE MOST CYNICAL THING I HAVE SEEN." GENSCHER SPECIFICALLY ASKED ABOUT SOVIET REPORTS OF A BOMB PROGRAM AND BOTHA ANSWERED "NO" EMPHATICALLY.

3. GENSCHER SUGGESTED THAT SOUTH AFRICAN COOPERATION WITH THE WEST ON RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA (SEPTELS) WOULD GIVE SOUTH AFRICA CREDIT IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD AND BUY TIME FOR SOUTH AFRICA TO SOLVE ITS OWN PROBLEMS. BOTHA STATED THAT AN AUGUST 20 PARTY CAUCUS IN CAPE TOWN WOULD DISCUSS A PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE WHEREBY THE EIGHT MILLION WHITES, ASIANS AND COLOREDS WOULD FORM THEIR "OWN UNIT." BOTHA STATED THAT AFRICANS HAVE A DIFFERENT SYSTEM AND REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE EUROPEAN VALUE SYSTEM. SOUTH AFRICA WILL NOT ACCEPT THE AFRICAN SYSTEM AND WILL FIGHT TO THE END IF NECESSARY.

4. IN A POLITICAL-STRATEGIC VEIN, GENSCHER STATED
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THERE WAS A PROSPECT THAT THE THIRD WORLD COULD NOW BE MADE TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE USSR TRIES TO ACT AS A POST-

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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 13318

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COLONIAL FORCE BUT MAKES THE OLD COLONIAL MISTAKES.
GENSCHER DREW PARALLELS BETWEEN THE CURRENT SITUATION
IN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. HE NOTED THE DIS-
ENCHANTMENT WITH THE USSR IN EGYPT, SYRIA AND THE
SUDAN. GENSCHER STATED THAT WESTERN POLICY SHOULD LAY
SOVIET MOTIVES OPEN AND PROVE TO THE AFRICANS THAT THE
WEST IS THE TRUE FRIEND OF INDEPENDENCE. QUITE A FEW
AFRICAN COUNTRIES SEEM RECEPTIVE TO THIS, BUT A LONG
AND FIERCE ARMED CONFLICT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WOULD
INCREASE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOVIET INFLUENCE IN
AFRICA.

5. BOTHA REPLIED THAT SOUTH AFRICAN REFORMS HAVE ONLY
LED TO FURTHER PRESSURE FROM THE WEST. SOUTH AFRICA
FEELS THAT THE WEST FAVORS RADICAL SYSTEMS AND BRINGS
DANGERS TO SOUTH AFRICA'S BORDERS. BOTHA CONCLUDED BY
APPEALING TO GENSCHER TO TELL THE US AND UK THAT THEY
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WILL NOT GET SOUTH AFRICA TO CHANGE BY THE "ILL MANNERED
AND UNACCEPTABLE WAY" THEY TALK TO IT. IF THIS
CONTINUES, BOTH SAID, THE SOUTH AFRICANS WILL PROCEED
AT THEIR OWN SPEED TO INSTITUTE REFORMS, OR ELSE THEY
WILL FIGHT IT OUT, BUT THE WEST MUST BE INTERESTED IN
THE SURVIVAL OF SOUTH AFRICA.
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